Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01

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SIL-01 LAB-06 TAR-02 INT-08 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

L-03 H-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 /134 W ------ 080767

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2443

CONFIDENTIAL BOGOTA 3606

EO 11652: GDS TAGS: ETRD CO

SUBJ: CONSULTATIONS ON MTN-FERROUS SCRAP

TO SECRETARY DENT FROM EBERLE

1. DURING MORNING WORKING SESSION FRIDAY 26 BETWEEN AMBASSADOR EBERLE'S DELEGATION AND GOC INTER-MINISTERIAL TEAM, HEADED BY FINMIN ECHAVARRIA, PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC SECRETARY ENRIQUE LOW PRESENTED GOC POSITION ON FERROUS SCRAP AS FIRST TOPIC ON BILATERAL AGENDA. HE POINTED OUT THAT HISTORICAL BASE FOR COLOMBIAN IMPORTS FROM US LOW BECAUSE STEEL PRODUCTION HAS RECENTLY BEEN EXPANDED IN RESPONSE TO GOVT'S NEW EMPHASIS ON CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC HOUSING AND CREATION OF EMPLOYMENT. LOW STATED THAT GOC HAD TAKEN FAVORABLE MEASURES INTERNALLY TO INCREASE SUPPLIES - SUCH AS SCRAPPING OBSOLETE NAVAL VESSELS - BUT WITH ONLY LIMITED SUCCESS. UNLESS RELIEF OBTAINED SOON, LOW DECLARED THAT STEEL PLANTS WOULD BE FORCED TO CLOSE DOWN WITH THOUSANDS OF CONSTRUCTION JOBS THREATENED. HE CONCLUDED BY REPEATING REQUEST FOR QUOTA OF 100,000 TONS.

2. AMBASSADOR EBERLE AND FOX RESPONDED FOR US DELEGATION, POINTING OUT THAT FERROUS SCRAP IN SHORT SUPPLY IN US AND LIKELIHOOD THAT US EXPORT CONTROLS WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL SITUATION CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPROVED. US ATTEMPTING TO ALLOCATE AVAILABLE SCRAP AMONG FOREIGN

PURCHASERS AS EQUITABLY AS POSSIBLE. US DEL RECOGNIZED IMPORTANCE TO GOC OF THEIR REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL SCRAP ALLOCATION. DEL REQUESTED ASAP FACTUAL DATA FROM GOC ON INTERNAL COLOMBIAN SCRAP SITUATION FOR INFORMATION OF USG IN DECIDING AMONG MANY COMPETING REQUESTS. GOC AGREED SUPPLY RELEVANT DATA WITHIN NEXT SEVERAL DAYS.

3. COMMENT. AMBASSADOR EBERLE BELIEVES IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO CONSTRUCTIVE POSITION WE ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP WITH GOC IN TRADE FIELD IF IT POSSIBLE TO GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO AT LEAST SOME PART OF GOC REQUEST FROM SECOND QUARTER 1974 CONTINGENCY FUND ALLOCATIONS. VAKY

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: ETRD, CO, US, (EBERLE, WILLIAM)

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